



Photo of Carrie Compere by André Chung.

Going to see *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*
Ford's Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance
Pre-Visit Story

Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre © Maxwell MacKenzie.

The new musical, *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* by Cheryl L. West, is currently being performed at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!



Photo of Felicia Boswell, Jalisa Williams, Nia Savoy-Dock, Raquel Jennings and Carrie Compere by André Chung.

The musical *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* is about Sister Rosetta Tharpe, a real musician from the 1930s -1970s. The story is based on her life and features her music, as well as the music of other famous artists she worked with. She played guitar, sang gospel and blues and inspired modern rock-and-roll.

The story begins when she is 18 years old and follows her career.

This musical tells a story with actors talking, dancing and singing on the stage.

Actors will walk through the theatre near me.

Stage



Photo of the cast of *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* by André Chung.

The things on stage (called the set) for *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* will change many times throughout the show.

There is a revolving floor on stage that will reveal the scenes and settings.

We will see different homes, streets, churches, the Cotton Club and Carnegie Hall in New York, Griffith Stadium in Washington, D.C. and different TV and recording studios.

Sound and Lights



Photo of Carol Dennis, Joe Mallon, Carrie Compere, Jarran Muse and Raquel Jennings by André Chung.

Sister Rosetta is a big and bold performer. At times, the show can sound loud.

Parts of the show have a lot of bright lights on the stage.

I can bring headphones, wear earplugs or visors during the show.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe



Photo of Carrie Compere by André Chung.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe is called “Sister” because it is a tradition in some churches to call someone “Sister” or “Brother.”

Sister Rosetta’s style was gospel music.

She was a successful singer in the United States and in Europe.

The Ford’s Theatre website has more information about Sister Rosetta:
bit.ly/Learn-About-Sister-Rosetta

Music



Photo of Keenan McCarter, Jamal Antony Shuriah, Joseph Anthony Byrd and the *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* band by André Chung.

There is a band playing music just above the stage. Sometimes you can see them, sometimes they are hidden.

They sit in what is called a bandstand.

The actors will sing songs and dance with the music.

The music can sound both loud and soft at times. The dancing can sound loud and be energetic.

Gospel



Photo of Jamal Antony Shuriah, Jarran Muse, Joseph Anthony Byrd and Keenan McCarter by André Chung.

Gospel music is a style of music from African American churches.

A feature of gospel music is “call and response.” The actors may call out to the audience, and we are invited to respond.

Gospel music is part of religious ceremonies but people also listen to it outside of the church.

Sister Rosetta helped make gospel music popular outside of the church. Many popular songs in rock-and-roll, blues, jazz and pop are inspired by her performances of gospel music.

Memory and Time



Photo of Felicia Boswell and Carrie Compere by André Chung.

The show begins with Sister Rosetta when she is older.

The show goes back and forward in time as Sister Rosetta remembers what happened to her in her life.

Sister Rosetta changes her costumes and wigs on stage to show us the passage of time. You may also hear a sound effect that sounds like a “whoosh.”

Sometimes our feelings and memories of past experiences change over time.

Faith



Photo of Carol Dennis by André Chung.

Sister Rosetta grew up in a church. Her faith, the Bible and her music are very important to her.

She believes God gave her a mission to play music.

Other people in the church do not believe gospel music should be played outside of the church.

Sister Rosetta often feels alone because of what other people think of her music.

But she trusts her heart that she is doing what God wants her to do.

Love



Photo of Sinclair Mitchell and Carrie Compere by André Chung.



Photo of Carol Dennis and Carrie Compere by André Chung.



Photo of Carrie Compere and Jarran Muse by André Chung.

Sister Rosetta experiences many kinds of love: romantic love, love of family, love in faith, and love of music.

Sister Rosetta loves men and women in her life.

Sometimes the people she loves in her life hurt her. We will see and hear an example of abuse on stage.

Sister Rosetta's mother loves her, even though they don't always agree.

Sister Rosetta gives a lot of love to other people and wants to be loved in return.

GOING TO SEE *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!* – CREDITS

All stage photos are from the Ford's Theatre production of *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford's Theatre Access Committee

Designer: Lenice Araiza

Ford's Theatre would like to extend special thanks to Roger Ideishi and Diane Nutting for their support, expertise and assistance.

Ford's Theatre accessibility programs are supported by the Liberty Mutual Foundation.